HIS MAJESTIES SPEECH

MADE

To the Gentlemen and *Posse* of the County of *Somerset* at *Kings-moore* the 23. day of *July* 1644.

BRISTOLL,

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Gentlemen,

I Have often desired before these troubles, to visit these Western parts. That I might with joy have been an eye-witnesse of the Blessings of Peace which you then enjoyed, and have been welcom'd with the hearty and unanimous affections of my good people here. But the malicious designes of the Authors of this most unnaturall Warre, have made those my intentions impossible: yet my coming to you in this posture, may sufficiently expresse what value I set upon these associated Counties. I am now come to relieve you from the

violence of a Rebellious Army sent hither by those that have plunged this whole Kingdom into these desperate distractions. They have got footing in your Country, and under the false pretences they carry with them (wherewith they have abused too many of my people) are ready to devoure you and bring destruction to your Religion, Property, and Liberty. These I am come to defend, and shall refuse no danger that may conduce to your deliverance from this slavery attempted on you by those men. All that I ask of you is, that you will not be wanting to your selves, but will heartily joyn with me in this good work, by contributing your cheerfull assistance to my Army, and by performing your duty, in bearing Arms with me in this good cause, wherein whosoever shall fall carryeth this comfort with him, that he falleth in defence of the true Protestant Religion, his King, his Country, and the Law of the Land, and he that will not venture his life for these, I had rather have his room then his company. Upon these grounds I shall lead you on; follow me with courage, and the God of Power give us his blessing. I shall further remember you of this, that if by your assistance it shall please God to enable me to reduce this Army now in the bowels of your Country, you will not thereby onely free these associated Counties from those miseries which threaten you, but it may please God in mercy so to look upon this poor Kingdom, that the fruits of this victory may be a

means

means to restore Peace to us all; that blessed Peace which I have so often, and so importunately sought for from them at Westminster, and which they have so scornfully rejected, as if the blood of their fellow-Subjects were their delight. God turn their hearts: Neither shall I despair of it, if the success of that Army (the chiefest strength on which they rely shall fail their expectation) for then it may have such an influence upon them, that I shall hope they may be prevailed with to give you leave to be happy again, if (which I have so often desired) to have all that is in question between them and me, determined in a full and free convention of Parliament: Then I shall not fear but the united Power of this Kingdom, will easily free us from that Northern invasion, which (making use of our divisions) threatneth no lesse then the conquest of this whole Nation. This I assure you, that no successe shall make me lesse zealously seek for Peace (well knowing whose blood is to be spilt in this unhappy quarrell) but rather I shall more fervently encrease my desires, by how much I may have better grounded hopes to attain what I so earnestly desire. When I mention Peace, I would be understood to intend that Peace which is built upon such foundations as are most likely to render it firm and stable, wherein God's true Religion may be best secured from the danger of Popery, Sectaries, and Innovations, the Crown may possesse those just prerogatives, which may enable me to pro-

rect and govern my people according to Law, and the Subject be confirmed in those rights, which they have derived from their fore-fathers, and which I have granted to them in Parliament, to which I shall always be ready to adde such new graces, as I shall finde most to conduce to their happinesse: This is the Peace which I labour for, wherein I may justly expect your best assistance with your hearts, hands, and purses. Neither shall I be more burdensome to you with my Army, then of necessity I must for its support (so farre I must desire your help, being violently rob'd of all my Revenues) I have, and shall use all possible means to suppresse the disorders of the Souldiers: The best way to do it, is by taking order that they be not provoked with want of necessary provisions: That being done by you Mr. Sheriffe, and the Commissioners of this County (which I most earnestly recommend to your care) you shall finde me very strict in such discipline as may best secure you. This night I hope to have joyned to me other considerable Forces, which are upon their march towards me, and to morrow morning we shall humbly aske Gods blessing on us and begin the work. This care I shall further take for you, that as soon as possibly I can, other men (to be levyed by Empresse) shall supply the places of such of you, as I shall then give liberty to return to your Harvest. I shall conclude with this promise to you, that I shall look upon your cheerfulnesse in this Service, as the

greatest

greatest expression of your loyalty and affections, that you can make or I receive, which I shall requite if it be in my Power. If I live not to do it, I hope this * young man my Sonne (your fellow Souldier in this expedition) will; to whom I shall particularly give it in charge.

* Turning to Prince *Charles* who was by him.

That which remaines concerning your listing (which shall be under Officers of your own Country) and Arming, (the defects whereof I will supply the best that I can out of my stores) and the order of your march, you shall receive from my Lord Generall.

FINIS.